Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 00037 031612Z ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ACDE-00 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SAJ-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 /090 W

-----031652Z 056668 /44

P R 031601Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4366
INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ROME
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
USNMR SHAPE
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

SECRETBONN 00037

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR, GW

SUBJECT: MBFR: TABLING OF RED DATA

REF: STATE 313916 DTG 302336Z DEC 76

- 1. WE MET WITH FOREIGN OFFICE MBFR OFFICE DIRECTOR RUTH ON JANUARY 3 TO SEEK FRG SUPPORT FOR THE U.S. POSITION ON TABLING OF RED DATA. AFTER MAKING ORALLY THE POINTS CONTAINED PARAS. 2-7 REFTEL, WE LEFT A NON-PAPER WITH RUTH BASED ON THOSE PARAGRAPHS FOR FURTHER STUDY.
- 2. RUTH SAID HE COULD RESPOND ONLY INFORMALLY AND PERSONALLY AT THE PRESENT TIME. HE NOTED HE WAS FAMILIAR WITH U.S. ARGUMENTATION AGAINST THE TABLING OF RED DATA. HE SAID HE AGREED WITH THE U.S. POSITION THAT WE HAD DEMONSTRATED SUFFICIENTLY THE DIVERGENCIES IN SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BONN 00037 031612Z

MANPOWER LEVELS BETWEEN EAST AND WEST. HE CONTINUED, HOWEVER, THAT THE QUESTION WAS WHETHER THE OTHER SIDE WOULD USE THE NON-TABLING OF RED DATA AGAINST US.

3. IN THIS CONNECTION HE REFERRED TO THE OESER END-OF-ROUND PRESS CONFERENCE AT WHICH THE EAST GERMAN HAD ARGUED THAT THE DATA PRESENTED BY THE WEST HAD INDI- CATED THERE WAS AN INCREASE IN WESTERN MANPOWER IN THE NGA. RUTH EXPRESSED HIS BELIEF THAT THERE MIGHT BE A NEED TO

COUNTERACT THE OESER LINE AND TO MAKE THE WESTERN POSITION CLEAR THAT THE SIZE OF THE EASTERN FORCES HAD ALSO INCREASED. RUTH THOUGHT, THEREFORE, THAT TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS MIGHT DICTATE THE NECESSITY FOR AN EARLY TABLING OF RED DATA LEST THE CREDIBILITY OF PREVIOUS WESTERN DATA BE CALLED INTO QUESTION. RUTH SAID THE ALLIANCE WOULD HAVE TO DETERMINE THE BEST TACTICAL METHOD FOR PROCEEDING.

4. RUTH THEN RESTATED THE CURRENT GERMAN POSITION THAT THE FRG PREFERRED TO TABLE RED DATA AS SOON AS AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED WITHIN NATO ON THESE DATA.

NEVERTHELESS, RUTH SAID HE WOULD STUDY THE U.S.

POSITION CAREFULLY AND GIVE FULL CONSIDERATION TO OUR VIEWS. HE SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO SECURE FMOD COORDINATION ON AN FRG POSITION, BUT THAT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO DO SO THIS WEEK. HE HOPED TO BE ABLE TO GIVE US A CONSIDERED FRG RESPONSE BY THE MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK.

STOESSEL

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